

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2872

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By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, petition of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to require the Department of Mental Health to notify crime victims or their families of the release of certain criminals. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO NOTIFY  
CRIME VICTIMS OR THEIR FAMILIES ABOUT THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN  
CRIMINALS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996 Offi-  
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof  
3 following new section:—  
4 Section \_\_. The superintendent or commanding officer in  
5 charge, as the case may be, of any hospital, institution or facility  
6 under the control of the department shall notify in writing not less  
7 than seven days before the time scheduled for release or discharge  
8 any person or persons, or if they are minors, their parents or  
9 guardians who was a victim of or witness to a violent or criminal  
10 act of any person who as a result of such criminal conduct has  
11 been confined or involuntarily committed to the custody of the  
12 department.